

for the protection of human health and the environment or the protection of historical and archaeological resources. Some of the property may be transferred under early transfer authority and this would require approval from the Governor of Tennessee. Disposal mechanisms available to GSA include; transferring property to other Federal agencies; conveying property to state or local governments and institutions; and conveying the property to private entities.

Disposal of the property by GSA would remove the property from Federal ownership except for any parcel that may be transferred to another Federal Agency. The property after transfer becomes subject to the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County land use plans and taxing authority. All future development after transfer will be subject to local land-use controls. GSA has evaluated two alternatives as part of the EIS including the No-Action Alternative, and the Disposal Alternative.

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to better utilize assets. The need for the Proposed Action is to eliminate Federal expenses on unneeded property, to free capital for higher priorities, and to return property to the private sector and the local taxing authority for beneficial reuse.

The Department of Defense (DOD) screened the property against the needs of other DOD agencies and has determined Volunteer to be excess to the Department's needs. Having been determined to be excess by the DOD, the Army executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with GSA for the disposal of VAAP in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. GSA has screened the property for use by Federal civilian agencies and determined that the property is surplus to the needs of the Federal government.

The property is currently underutilized, and under the Proposed Action, would become a productive asset for future growth and development within the local community. As part of the NEPA process, GSA consulted with the local community to promote a smooth transfer and the productive reuse of the property.

GSA issued a Draft EIS in April with publication in the Federal Register, and provided a 45-day public comment period that began on April 15, 1999. A final Public Meeting was held in Chattanooga on April 29 soliciting comments on the Draft EIS.

The Final EIS addressed comments received on the Draft and was released on July 30 for final comment. This comment period closed on August 30. GSA provided written notices of availability of these documents in the Federal Register, the Chattanooga Free Press, and through local libraries. GSA distributed approximately 250 copies of the Draft and Final EIS